

CUDAHY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND AURORA HEALTH CARE PLAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

CUDAHY – (Sept. 25, 2009) -- The Cudahy Health Department, Aurora Health Care and the Center for Urban Population Health Research are working in partnership to conduct a community health survey beginning this month. The survey will supplement a prior community health assessment conducted in 2003 with updated data and the ability to analyze trends over time.

The survey will provide valuable data for continued evaluation of community needs and help guide government, not-for-profit and volunteer organizations as they fashion services to meet the most pressing needs of the community. The survey will be conducted between October and November. About 400 area residents will be interviewed by telephone. One addition to this year's survey is that some residents may be contacted by cell phone. "We recognize that more residents are using cell phones as their primary home phone and it's important that we reach a good cross section of our county," said Carol Wantuch, Cudahy Health Officer.

"I would encourage all residents of our county to help us with this research," said Wantuch. "If you are among those who receive a phone call, please take the time to answer the survey questions."

The survey focuses on issues such as access to health care, tobacco use, alcohol use, diet, physical activity, cancer prevention, heart health, injury prevention, immunizations, communicable diseases, mental health and chronic disease. The survey responses will be completely anonymous.

The survey will take about 18 minutes to complete. It is being conducted by Management Decisions, an independent research firm that specializes in community surveys.

The survey in Cudahy is part of a broader initiative Aurora Health Care spearheaded across 30 communities in eastern Wisconsin in 2003. In total, more than 16,000 adults were surveyed. Follow up surveys will be conducted in one third of these communities each year until 2010 to provide updated data. The results of the surveys in Cudahy and other communities will be released later this year. The 2003 survey reports are posted at www.aurora.org/commhealth.

These community health surveys are aimed at meeting several objectives:

- Gathering local data to document annual health status related to the 11 health priorities established by the state health plan.
- Identifying local health behaviors or risk factors that present opportunities for health promotion and health care cost reduction.
- Tracking the success of community health improvement activities.

The surveys also will allow Aurora to document population health indicators to help guide its clinical quality improvement efforts.

The survey in Cudahy is being paid for by a grant from Aurora Health Care.

Aurora Health Care is a not-for-profit Wisconsin health care provider and a nationally recognized leader in efforts to improve the quality of health care. Aurora offers services at sites in more than 90 communities throughout eastern Wisconsin.

###

Seasonal Flu Clinic Set for October 20th at the Cudahy Health Department

CUDAHY – (October 1, 2009) -- Protect yourself from the seasonal flu and help those less fortunate at the same time. That's the recommendation of the Cudahy Health Department, as it prepares for its annual flu clinic on Tuesday, October 20th.

Flu shots will be available to individuals ages 10 and older, from 9:00 a.m. until noon and from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Health Department located inside City Hall (5050 South Lake Drive).

Officials are asking flu shot recipients to bring a non-perishable food or toiletry item for the local food pantry, Project Concern.

No appointment is necessary to receive a seasonal flu shot. The vaccination is free if you can provide a valid Medicare B Card, otherwise it is \$30.

"We want to remind people that the influenza vaccine is **NOT** for the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu," said Cudahy Public Health Officer Carol Wantuch. "We hope to schedule H1N1 flu clinics once we know exactly when that vaccine will be available, and how many doses the health department will get."

In addition to the seasonal flu vaccine, the pneumonia vaccine also will be available at the October 20th flu clinic, at a cost of \$45.

The clinic is being offered in partnership with Wheaton Franciscan Home Health. For more information, call the Cudahy Health Department at 769-2239. You can also call Wheaton Franciscan at 1-888-994-3286 or visit www.mywheaton.org.

###